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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : White House "Situation Room"

Noted by DD/I
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Executive Registry
9-76-35

1. In response to your request to Mr. Sheldon concerning the White House "Situation Room", the following information may be helpful.

2. In the new "Bomb Shelter" under the East Wing of the White House a room has been prepared for use as a briefing room. OCI was charged with designing, arranging for briefing aids, and installing fixtures in this room which is approximately 13 ft. X 20 ft. It is equipped with six sliding map panels, 6 ft. square, two large fixed wall panels and facilities for displaying portable map panels. There are teletype machines in the room connected to CIA terminals through the White House communications center which can receive and send messages including those of Special Intelligence classification. It also has a Vuegraph projector and screen for displaying material on prepared transparencies. A facsimile recorder receives maps with overlaid information sent from Civil Defense Headquarters, and a radio hookup permits the President to go out on the radio and television networks if he so desires. The room qualifies as a secure area, and admission is supervised by the briefing officers in charge. 25X1A

3. Arrangements were made prior to and during [REDACTED] for CIA and the JCS to operate the "Situation Room" on a joint basis each with one briefing officer on duty when the room was active. The room is normally unmanned and in a "standby" status. Its chief purpose is to serve the President in an emergency situation especially under conditions when he evacuates his normal office and occupies his emergency office in the bomb shelter directly across a corridor from the "Situation Room". The room is about a five minute walk from the Presidents' regular office and, therefore, is not ideally suited for a briefing room under normal circumstances when the briefings are usually at his desk.

4. Identical briefing aids and fixtures were provided for Camp David at the time of procuring equipment for the White House. An underground shelter is now being constructed to duplicate the room at that location which would also be manned jointly by CIA and the JCS at the request of the White House in case of evacuation from Washington.

5. An artist's sketch of the room and its equipment is available should you desire a visual impression of the room and its layout.

25X1A

Chief, Military Division

DOCUMENT NO. 5

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. U1

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